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ized and modified flowers, which gradually fitted their forms and the position of their honey-glands to the forms of the bees or butterflies, showed a natural tendency to pass from yellow through pink and red to purple and blue, it would follow that the insects which were being evolved side by side with them, and which were aiding at the same time in their evolution, would grow to recognize these developed colors as the visible symbols of those flowers from which they could obtain the largest amount of honey with the least possible trouble. Thus it would finally result that the ordinary unspecialized flowers, which depended upon small insect riff-raff, would be mostly left yellow or white ; those which appealed to rather higher insects would become pink or red; and those which laid themselves out for bees and butterflies would grow for the most part to be purple or blue. Now, this is very much what we actually find to be the case in nature.

The Variability of Oaks.—In some remarks upon a note by Mr. Meehan, on 'Hybrid Oaks,' which appeared on page 55 of the BULLETIN, M. DeCandolle (*Arch. des Sci. Phys. et Nat.*, p. 557) says that it is interesting to find that in a *Quercus robur* raised in America, a country to which the species is not indigenous, and one in which no allied form exists to cross with it, the same mixture of forms has been observed that he called attention to in 1862, when he reduced the so called species *Q. pedunculata* and *Q. sessiliflora* to *Q. robur.* M. DeCandolle remarks that "many similar facts have been noted in annual or perennial plants introduced into cultivation, and no one, it seems to me, can doubt that variations sometimes occur without hybridization."

Botanical Literature.

Sylloge Fungorum omnium hucusque cognitorum. By Prof. P. A. Saccardo. Large 8vo., pp. 768. Padua, Italy.

The first volume of this long-expected work has at length appeared, and will help to fill a want long felt by all students of mycology. It forms a large octavo of 768 pages, with descriptions of about 2,900 species of Sphaeriaceous Fungi. Adding much to the practical value of the work are the *habitat lists*, giving in alphabetical order the names of the trees and plants on which the different species grow. The volume is published at 49 francs, which, considering the labor of preparing such a work, is very reasonable. It is to be hoped that the demand for this first volume may be such as to encourage the author to go on with the compilation of the remaining orders.—J. B. E.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Index to the Genus Carex of Gray's Manual. By Jos. F. James. 8vo., pamph., pp. 11. (Reprint from the *Botanical Gazette.*) From the author.

Contributions to the Flora of Iowa. Nos. iv. and v. By J. C. Arthur. 8vo., pamph., pp. 4 and 5. (Extracts from *Proceedings* of the Davenport Acad. Sci.) From the author.

Darwin considéré au point de vue des causes de son succès et l'import-

ance des ses travaux. Par Alph. DeCandolle. 8vo., pamph., (Extract from *Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles.*) From the author.

Our Native Ferns and their Allies. By L. M. Underwood, Ph.D. 12mo., pp. 134. From the author.

Chas. Robert Darwin. By Jos. F. James. 8vo., pamph., pp. 7. (Extract from *Journal* of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History.) From the author.

Notes on the Native Trees of the Lower Wabash and White River Valleys, in Illinois and Indiana. By Robert Ridgway. 8vo., pamph., pp. 40. (From *Proceedings* of the U. S. National Museum.) From the author.

The New Botany, a Lecture on the best method of teaching the Science. By W. J. Beal, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Second edition.) 8vo., pamph., pp. 16. Philadelphia: C. H. Marot. From the publisher.

Sur un caractère de la Batate, dont la singularité dans la famille des Convolvulacées n'a pas été suffisamment remarquée:

Observation de M. Meehan sur la variabilité du Chêne rouvre, et remarque de M. A. De Candolle. Par Alph. De Candolle. 8vo. pamp., pp. 8. (From *Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles*). From the author.

SERIAL PUBLICATIONS.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Part i. Jan. to April. (June, 1882.)—'Fruiting of *Ginko biloba,*' by Thomas Meehan; 'New Station for *Corema Conradii,*' by Aubrey H. Smith; 'Relation of Heat to the Sexes of Flowers,' by Thomas Meehan.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Part iii. Oct., 1881—Jan., 1882. (July, 1882.)—'Temperature of Trees,' by D. P. Penhallow.

Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the year 1881. Part ii. (June, 1882.)—'Our Native Plants adapted for Winter Culture for their Flowers,' by Mrs. T. L. Nelson; 'List of Edible Fungi,' by Dr. E. L. Sturtevant; 'Date of Flowering of Trees and Shrubs in Eastern Massachusetts, in 1881, by John Robinson.

Proceedings of the Torrey Club.—The regular meeting of the Club was held at Columbia College on Tuesday evening, June 13th, the President in the chair and twenty-seven members present.

New Stations.—Mr. Britton exhibited specimens of *Helonias bullata,* L., from near Rossville, Staten Island; of *Corema Conradii,* Torr., collected by Mr. C. E. Smith on the Shawangunk Mountains; and of *Triticum violaceum,* Hornm., collected by Prof. T. C. Porter near Andover, Sussex County, N. J., and new to the flora of that State. Judge Addison Brown reported the detection by him of *Xerophyllum setifolium,* Michx., at Ocean Beach, N. J., a somewhat northerly station for it, and stated that *Hudsonia ericoides,* L., was very abundant in the same neighborhood.